(c) to (e) Do not asrise.

CAG report on implementation of N REG scheme

177. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI:
SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pelased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the CAG audit reports of 68 districts in 26 States, pointing out sweeping irregularities, including diversion of funds, work that doesn't exist, etc. relating to implementation of the National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what measures have been adopted to book guilty officials and avoid recurrence of such incidents?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) to (c) Ministry of Rural Development had requested CAG to undertake performance audit of the implementation of NREGA in phase I districts. Accordingly, CAG conducted audit in 68 districts of 26 States. CAG submitted its draft report on 17.12.2007 to the Ministry. The draft report has been shared by the Ministry with all the States. The States have given their responses to the observations made by CAG in the draft report. The State's responses are being examined in the Ministry. These would be sent to CAG for their consideration. CAG report on the performance audit of NREGA would be finalised after taking into consideration the responses of the States to the observations made by CAG. Since the report submitted by CAG on audit of NREGA is only a draft report, it is not possible for the Ministry to give any comments at this stage.

Road construction under PMGSY in Jharkhand

178. MISS MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) when will the PMGSY roads be constructed as per the national norms/quality in Jharkhand; and

(b) whether Government is aware that these roads in Jharkhand are sub-contracted over and over again and hence built by petty local inexperienced contractors, thus following no norms of quality and leading to substandard quality?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): (a) Under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) roads are constructed as per the specifications and provisions in Rural Roads Manual IRC SP: 20 prepared by Indian Roads Congress (IRC).

(b) "Rural Roads" being a State subject, projects under PMGSY are executed by the State Government through its agencies. State Executing Agency awards the works as per Standard

Bidding Document (SBD). There is s a provision for limited sub-contracting in SBD. Sub-contracting beyond the provisions envisaged in the SBD is not permissible. Ensuring the quality of the road works is the responsibility of the State Government who is implementing the programme. National Rural Roads Development Agency (NRRDA) has issued general guidelines on quality control and prescribed a Quality Assurance Handbook to regulate quality control process at works level.

NREG scheme in Rajasthan

† 179. DR. PRABHA THAKUR: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has approved a scheme to introduce National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme in all districts of Rajasthan;

(b) if so, the date from which the work related to the employment guarantee is targeted to be started in all the districts of Rajasthan under this scheme; and

(c) the amount to be allocated by the Central Government to the state under this scheme in the financial year beginning from April, 2008 alongwith the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (NREGS) was introduced in 6 districts of Rajasthan with effect from 2.2.2006. The Scheme was extended to six additional districts with effect from 1.4.2007. The Government has notified all the remaining districts of the State for coverage under NREGS with effect from 1.4.2008.

(c) NREGS is demand driven and not allocation based. Provisions are made in the budget for implementation of the Act on the basis of funds utilized by the States and also on the basis of demand for work in the previous year.

High and variable interest rates on loans under SGSY

180. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that banks are charging high or variable interest rates on loans provided to the people from below poverty line under the Swarna Jayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY);

(b) if so, whether any steps have been taken to address the anomaly and also to encourage synergies that promote skill development and entrepreneurship in the rural areas;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefore?

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† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.